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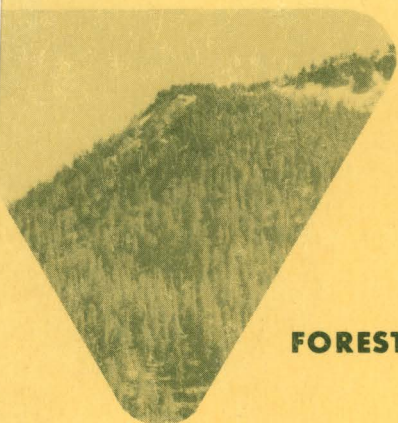
PUBLIC LANDS WITH BLM IN ALASKA

1960's

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Your public lands with BLM in Alaska.



FORESTS



GRAZING



ENGINEERING



LANDS

PROTECTION



IS

NON-CIRCULATING

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WILDLIFE



RECREATION



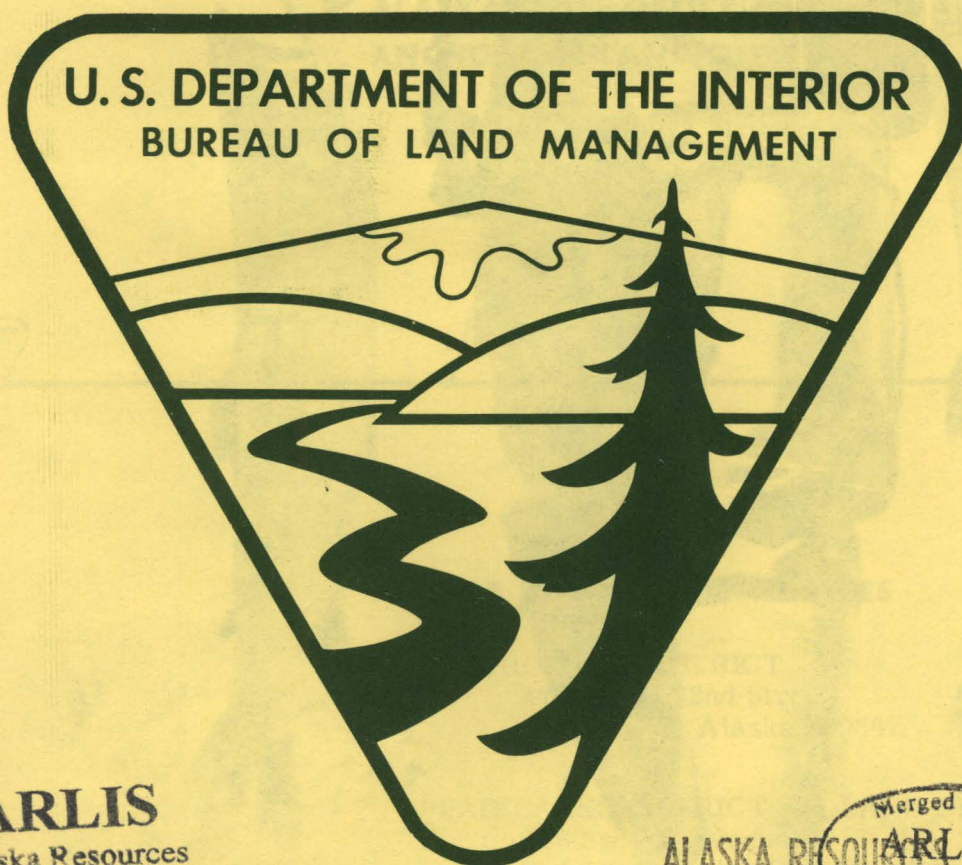
Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior — a Department of Conservation — is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States — now and in the future.

YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

WITH BLM

IN ALASKA



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YOUR PUBLIC LANDS



UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF

LAND MANAGEMENT

**ALASKA STATE OFFICE and
ANCHORAGE LAND OFFICE**

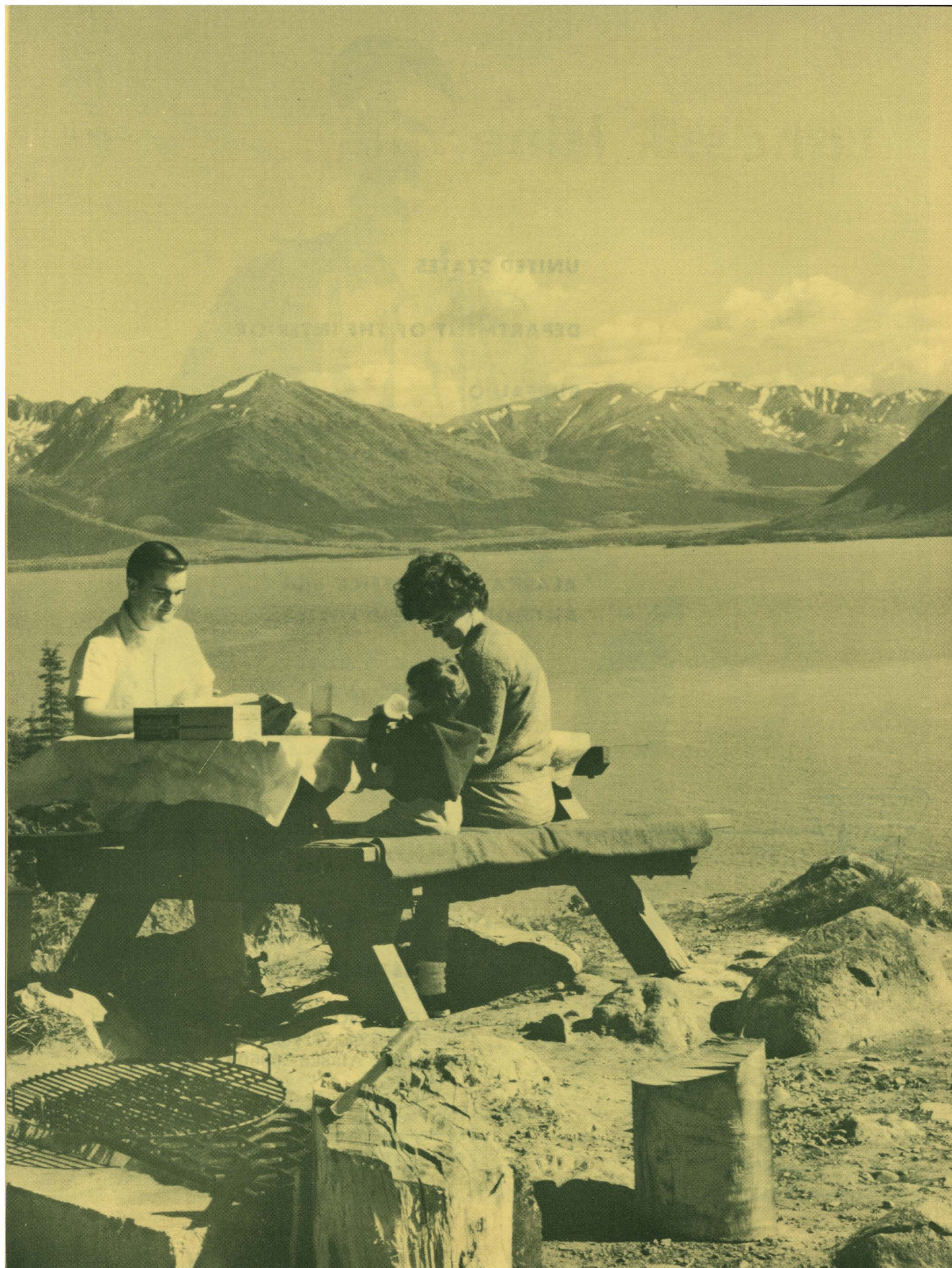
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



ALASKA BLM DISTRICT OFFICES

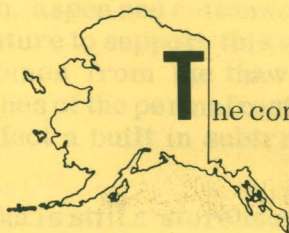
ANCHORAGE DISTRICT
4700 East 72nd Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

FAIRBANKS DISTRICT and LAND OFFICE
516 Second Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



Alaska with its splendid scenery is attracting thousands of visitors each year.

The Public Lands



The conservation scope of the Bureau of Land Management of the United States Department of Interior is as broad as America's history of land and resource development. Responsibility for stewardship of the public domain has evolved from an 1812 Congressional charge . . . "to perform all actions and things touching or respecting the public lands of the United States..."

In 1946 the General Land Office was consolidated with the Grazing Service to form the Bureau of Land Management. BLM is greatly indebted to these two organizations for a rich heritage of tradition, experience, and know-how. They were brought together so that the public would be assured of consistency in the conservation of natural resources.

The lands managed by BLM stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, and encompass some 466 million acres. The President has referred to this vast storehouse of lands and resources as "... a vital national reserve that should be devoted to productive use now and maintained for future generations."

Changes in land use and needs have greatly altered the role of public lands in the national economy. The social and economic contributions of these public lands are immeasurable. From them come timber, oil and gas, forage for livestock and wildlife, valuable minerals for industry, water for private, municipal and industrial needs, and space for urban development. In addition, the lands provide opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, and other recreation.

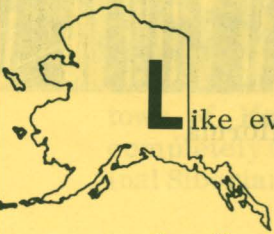
In administering these 466 million acres BLM is guided by a set of broad goals:

To manage the nation's public lands and resources wisely, to prevent waste and destructive exploitation, and to preserve and protect the priceless heritage and destiny of the public resources in the Bureau's trust.

Three-fourths of Alaska's 365 million acres (mostly public domain) is still under the jurisdiction of BLM: hence, the Bureau's work must be geared to meet problems of perplex diversity in areas separated by vast distances.

The rain forests of Southeast Alaska produce much of the wood fiber needed for today's economy.

Forests



Like everything else in Alaska, the forests are different too! They vary from typical rain forests in the southeast pan-handle to the "green deserts" of the north.

"Greendeserts" indeed! Despite an arid 5 to 10-inch annual rainfall, many interior areas support an abundance of tree growth, including white and black spruce, paper birch, aspen and cottonwood. Much of the moisture to support this vegetative growth comes from the thawing of the upper reaches of the permafrost layer. This is in effect a built in subirrigation system.

Alaska is still a storehouse of wood fiber for the United States. BLM timber sales and free-use permits do not approach even 1 percent of the estimated annual sustained yield production. On the public domain lands, this production is considered to be approximately 2 billion board feet - enough to build an average frame house every 2 to 3 minutes, night and day, year after year.

Although few of the forests of Alaska have been touched by axe or power saw, most of the timber could be classed as second growth, for during the past century at least 80 percent of the area has been burned over by uncontrolled fires.





BLM's forest lands in Alaska are equal in size to the entire State of California.

However, these forests do supply lumber and other forest products for the homesteaders and natives, and help support many small communities that depend in part on a sawmill economy. Some 150 mills are now operating at least part time in Alaska.

All phases of forest economics, management, and harvesting are in the earliest stages of development in Alaska. There are many unknowns. However, BLM is gathering needed information, developing data, and devising management plans. When this vast resource begins to flow into the American economy, BLM will be in a position to effectively and efficiently administer its Alaska timber resource.

BLM's forest lands in Alaska are equal in size to the entire state of California. After state selection, BLM will have at least 50 to 75 million acres of timber land to manage.

In recent years timber sale receipts and appropriations have been declining. Free use has increased. Sales are small and stumpage prices are minimum. There are no large timber based industries on BLM lands.

A public domain timber inventory program was initiated during FY 1965 in the Kuskokwim basin. Present plans call for completion of the Alaska timber inventory by 1971 or 1972. The work is being done in conjunction with the forest survey by the Forest Service Experiment Station at Juneau.

The best immediate prospect for utilization of BLM's Alaska timber resources is log or ship export. The Japanese industry has sent several parties to Alaska to investigate this potential.

In 1966 the total value of record for all forest resources removed from Bureau lands was \$25,000. Most of this value was in free use permits.

Range

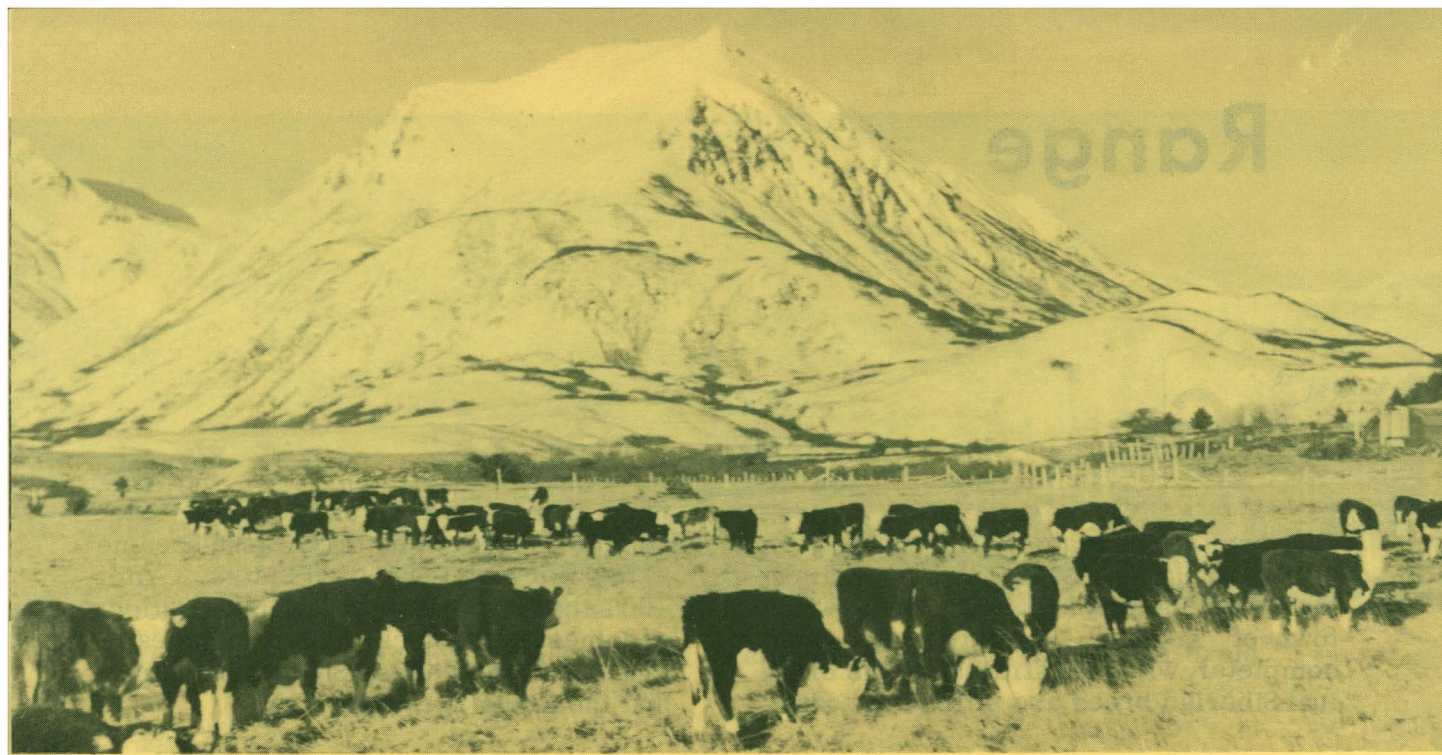


Grazing in Alaska has a fascinating history. Cattle were first introduced by the Russians. They brought in about 300 head in 1794 and maintained them in vicinity of what is now the town of Kodiak. The cattle later went completely wild, but strains of this original Siberian breed are still seen today.

Sheep were introduced by the Americans in 1853, 14 years before Alaska became a territory of the United States. After 1883 there were repeated introductions of domestic livestock, mostly in the eastern Aleutian Islands, Shumagin Islands, and the Kodiak group.

About 25,000 head of reindeer graze on Public Domain in Alaska.





Weaner calves on BLM grazing lease near Narrow Cape on Kodiak Island.

Another interesting aspect of livestock management in Alaska is the herds of reindeer. At the turn of the century, 1,200 head of reindeer were imported from Siberia. Today the reindeer in Alaska (about 43,000 head) are owned by natives. Most of the BLM grazing leases are for sheep and cattle. Although there is ample forage in the better grazing areas, the livestock industry in Alaska has its share of problems. The main difficulties to be overcome are the great distances from outside markets, storage of winter feed, lack of slaughter houses, unfavorable weather, and a few poisonous plants.

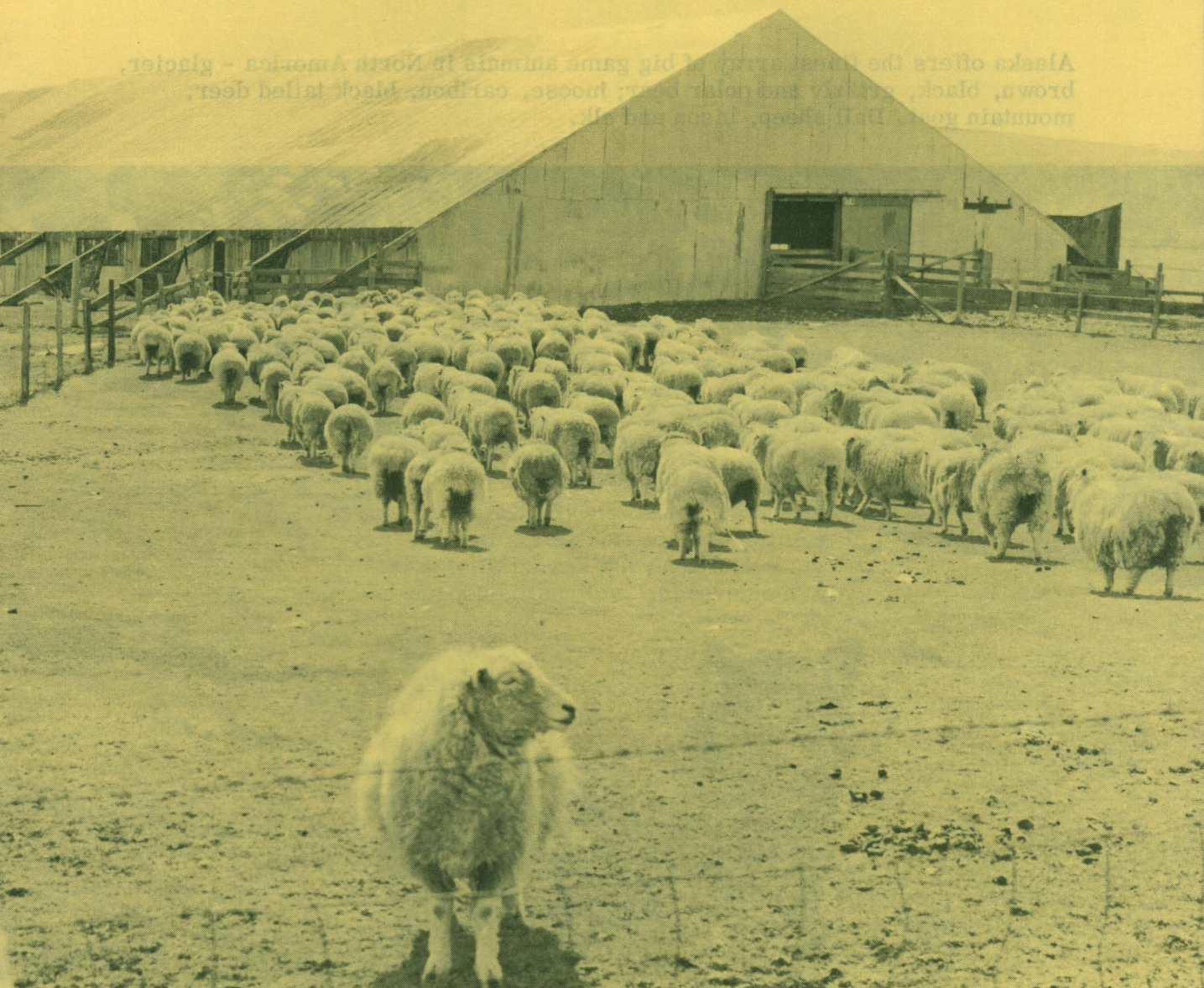
The range industry is concentrated on Kodiak Island and in the Aleutians. There are 56 leases covering 5,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep. Rental receipts totaled \$10,000 for 1966.

Alaska has its own grazing law and regulations. Leases are for 20 years at 5 cents per AUM. Leases are located around winter range - usually areas supporting beach rye.

Transportation and isolation are the chief problems of the industry.

The Alaska grazing law limits reindeer permits to Natives. There is no charge. About 25,000 reindeer graze on public domain lands; there are 14 permits covering approximately 10,100,000 acres. The Bureau of Indian Affairs initiated a model reindeer herd at Nome in 1965. The main purpose of this project is to demonstrate proper methods of animal husbandry and range management.

Wildlife



Some 20,000 sheep graze on Public Domain in Alaska.

Alaska offers the finest array of big game animals in North America - glacier, brown, black, grizzly and polar bear; moose, caribou, black tailed deer, mountain goat, Dall sheep, bison and elk.



Protection Wildlife



BLM initiated a wildlife habitat management program in Alaska in 1965.

An estimated 700,000 big game animals graze on public domain lands, which is 27% of the big game animals grazing on all of BLM's public domain. Currently 3 men are working chiefly in wildlife, determining critical areas of wildlife habitat, making initial range surveys, and studying opportunities for improvement of wildlife habitat.

Approximately \$150 million in salmon and other commercial fish are harvested annually from Alaskan waters. We estimate 80 percent of this harvest relies on public lands in one way or another.



Smokejumper ready to leave the plane.

Protection From Fire



Protecting 225 million acres of public lands from fire is a mighty tough job. This herculean assignment is another part of BLM's work in Alaska.

Long daylight hours, high temperatures, extremely dry weather and severe lightning storms together with highly flammable tundra, moss, and trees create a serious fire season that lasts 5 to 6 months each year. Shortage of manpower and the great distances involved also make detection and control unusually difficult.

Aerial tanker dropping fire retardant solution in initial attack on remote fire.



Only the airplane makes the vast remote areas of Alaska somewhat accessible. The entire BLM fire control operation is thus geared to, and built around aircraft. An excellent radio communications network has been built. When a fire is reported to the fire control dispatcher, he pin-points the location of the fire and dispatches the fighters and equipment to

Western Alaska has only two major centers of supply, service and labor; Anchorage and Fairbanks. These two cities are, therefore, the main operational bases of BLM's fire control organization. From them attacks on fires as far as 450 miles distant are launched. Heavy equipment is seldom used on Alaska fires because roads for quick access are usually lacking.

There are no lookout towers in Alaska. The country is so vast that the cost of an adequate network would be prohibitive. Fire detection, which is surprisingly effective, is left to BLM scouting planes, commercial pilots, bush pilots, and a fire conscious public.

Eighty percent of Interior Alaska's 130 million acres of forest lands requiring protection have been burned one or more times in the past 100 years.

The smokejumpers are the first answer to the need for a fast attack.

Only the airplane makes the vast remote areas of Alaska somewhat accessible. The entire BLM fire control operation is thus geared to, and built around aircraft. An excellent radio communications network has been built. When a fire is reported to the fire control dispatcher, he pin-points the location of the fire and dispatches fire fighters and equipment to the scene.

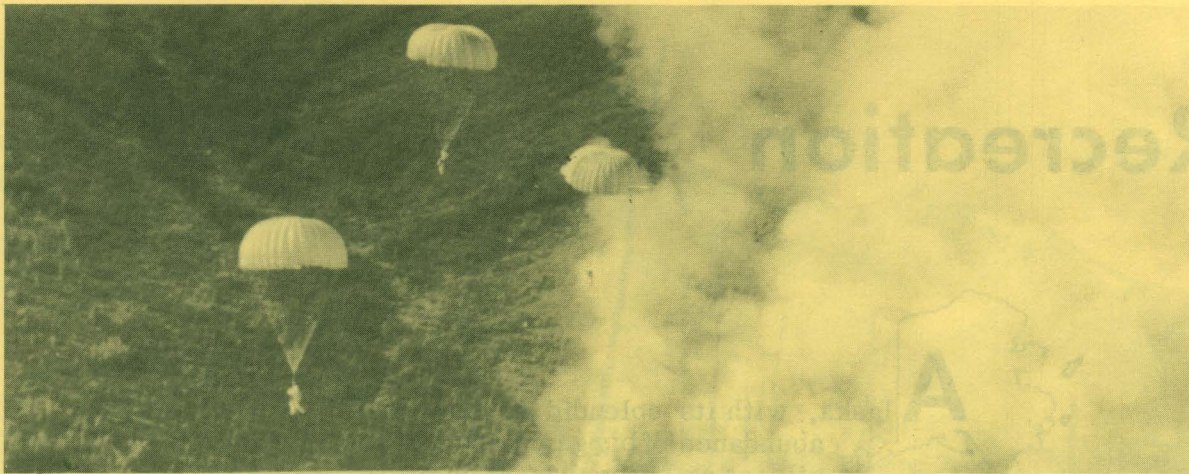
Smokejumpers are used in Alaska. These men are the long-awaited answer to the need for rapid initial attack. Jumping conditions are generally easier than in other states because of low elevations, rolling tundra, and small size of timber. BLM uses contract aerial tankers to drop fire-retardant solutions in initial attacks on remote fires to buy time until fire crews can be placed on the fire. The tankers are also used in support of smokejumpers.

Each year BLM's fire control operations are being improved and expanded to protect our valuable natural resource.

Eighty percent of Interior Alaska's 120 million acres of forest lands requiring protection have been burned one or more times in the past 100 years.

The smokejumper is the long awaited answer to the need for rapid initial attack.





Protection of the 276 million acres of Public Domain in Alaska is another of BLM's responsibilities.

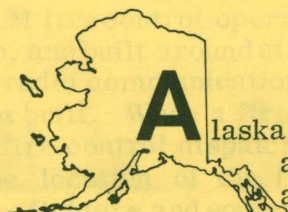
BLM is the rural fire department in Alaska. Organized protection from fire began in 1940. Two major fire control operations centers are maintained at Anchorage and Fairbanks. Sixteen other fire control stations are scattered throughout the state. A new fire control center has just been constructed in Anchorage.

The State of Alaska has contracted to the Bureau of Land Management the protection of 15,200,000 acres of former public domain lands received by Federal grants since statehood.



Average losses to fire in interior Alaska are about one million acres per year.

Recreation



Alaska, with its splendid scenery and abundance of big game and fish is attracting thousands of visitors each year.

BLM operates 18 campgrounds with 200 camping facilities.

During the fiscal year 1967, we built a \$60,000 addition to the Delta campground.

The potential for recreation in Alaska is unlimited, and is a major program for BLM. The Steese, Taylor, and Denali highways offer the greatest need and potential.

Uniquely, at Salmon Lake near Nome, BLM operates the most northerly and westerly campground in the 50 states. It is accessible by road from Nome.

In suitable areas land is being withdrawn or set aside for public recreation.





Dog sledding is a sport unique in Alaska and more people are taking part in it every year.

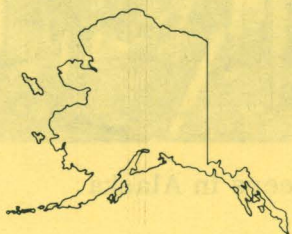
BLM has taken a leading role in developing coordinated recreation programming for Alaska. The Alaska Outdoor Recreation Guidance Council has resulted from these efforts and has representation from all Federal and State Agencies involved in recreation.

By informal agreement with the State of Alaska, areas of recreation responsibilities are designated. Generally these areas follow the state selection pattern, i.e., the State operates along the primary road system and BLM along the secondary system as well as in the remote areas.



BLM Cadastral Surveyors identify and locate land areas and these surveys are the basis for acquisition and use of the Public Domain.

Engineering



The program of the Division of Engineering in Alaska embraces all radio communications and construction activities of BLM and all cadastral survey activities. The cadastral survey work now far exceeds that of the other activities. This condition may prevail for many years because of the State's land selection program. But as settlement in Alaska increases the need for intensified management of the remaining public domain, BLM construction work will also increase.

The cadastral survey program in Alaska is as large as that of all the other states combined. In order to cope with this unprecedented job, BLM has adopted - and in some instances has pioneered -- the use of the most modern techniques and equipment known. Travel on foot is a thing of the past; amphibious aircraft take the field parties to the job site, and helicopters lift them from point to point. Distances are measured with airborne electronic systems, and photogrammetry is extensively used. It is only by these means that the Division of Engineering can keep pace with the increasing demands being placed upon it by the development of Alaska.

As settlement in Alaska increases the need for engineering work will also increase.





The survey of Villages and Townsites is another activity of engineers in Alaska.

On the date of Statehood, only $2\frac{1}{2}$ million acres or 0.7% of Alaska's 365,000,000 acres of land had been surveyed.

Federal statutes associated with the entry of Alaska into the Union in 1959 gave to the State the right to select, within 25 years, and acquire title to approximately 104 million acres of the remaining vacant unappropriated public domain in Alaska. This amounts to an area larger than the state of California and is roughly 28 percent of the total area of Alaska. These statutes placed upon BLM's Division of Engineering, through the Secretary of the Interior, the responsibility of surveying the exterior boundaries of these State selections. This requires a rate of progress of about 4 million acres a year until 1984.

Various public land laws and regulations applicable to Alaska make possible the acquisition of land by individuals and organizations, including that needed for Townsite purposes. This demand requires the survey each year of approximately 25 Townsites and 200 other claims consisting of homesteads, homesites, Native Allotments, trade and manufacturing sites, airports and other such claims.

Communications:

The Communications Branch is charged with the design, maintenance and operation of a radio network extending throughout an area comparable to the 48 contiguous states. This network provides the essential communications for Fire Protection and Cadastral Survey activities.

Photogrammetry:

The Division's Branch of Photogrammetry, through use of the Bureau's precision aerial camera and aircraft, obtain, process and compile data from aerial photography used extensively in the Cadastral Survey, Fire Protection and other resource inventory and study programs.

Design and Construction:

The efforts of the Design and Construction Branch of the Division of Engineering are presently directed chiefly toward building facilities such as fire control stations and warehouses for BLM and the construction of campground areas for use by the public.



Electric distance measuring equipment is used extensively in Cadastral Survey work. The data is processed by either the joint computer center in Anchorage or a specialized portable electronic computer purchased for field use to process data obtained with our Airborne Control Survey Systems.



Standard Oil refinery on the Kenai Peninsula. The refinery turns out commercial jet fuel, gasoline-type military jet fuel, a special fuel for the nearby Chugach Electric generating plant, diesel fuel, stove oil and casinghead gasoline.

Lands & Minerals



In Alaska, the Bureau of Land Management is still doing a land office business. Because of the State's size and farflung operations, there are two land offices, one in Fairbanks and one in Anchorage. These two offices handle thousands of filings each year.

The Taylor Grazing Act with its classification authority does not apply to Alaska. Thus, the public lands for the most part are truly open, unappropriated, unreserved public domain, subject to settlement, location, and entry without requiring classification. Most of the land is unsurveyed and all such entries must be surveyed before patent can be issued.

The Bureau's program is complicated by lack of surveys, the special laws allowing settlement on public lands in Alaska and the undetermined right of Natives to lands and resources.

Still doing a "Land Office business" the BLM in Alaska handles thousands of land filings each year.

General Land Grant: The Alaska Statehood act, effective 1/3/59, granted the State the right to select during the next 25 years 102,550,000 acres from the Federal public domain lands. These lands are to become the public land base of Alaska. As of 12/31/66 the State of Alaska has selected 15,918,750 acres.



Community Land Grants: The Alaska Statehood Act also allows the State during the next 25 years to select 400,000 acres each from the public domain and the national forests for community purposes. The State had selected 49,873 acres from the public domain as of 12/31/66 and 12,213 acres from the national forest.

Mental Health Lands: The State of Alaska has the right to select one million acres of public domain lands to aid the State in establishing and supporting its own mental health institutions. The selection period expired July 27, 1966. As of 12/31/66 the million acres have been selected.

By Act of January 21, 1929, the Congress established a land grant of 100,000 acres for the University of Alaska. As of 12/31/66 99,460 acres had been selected under this grant and all but 201 acres have been patented.

At the time of statehood the State received immediate title for school purposes to all surveyed sections 16 and 36, and sections 33 in the Tanana Valley. These totaled 132,744.86 acres.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bruns received the first federal land patent to be issued direct from Alaska on March 19, 1964.



Townsites:

Helping Native villagers and new born communities legally establish a claim to the public domain lands they occupy is the unique work of BLM's Townsite Trustee. Launching a townsite in the new State of Alaska is something like acquiring a homestead but a bit more complicated. This highly specialized job of administering applications for townsites in our last frontier is all handled from BLM's headquarters in Anchorage by one small office, the only one of its kind in the United States.

BLM also has the responsibility to set aside areas in critical locations such as proposed road junctions, military construction sites, hydroelectric project sites, etc., for townsite development. The area is reserved by public land order, a townsite plan prepared, and then surveyed on the ground. Lots in the new town are set aside for schools, courthouse, civic center, parks, cemetery, and other public uses. Upon approval of the plat of survey an auction sale is held and the lots are sold to the highest bidder. Tok, the town located at the junction of the Glenn and Alaska Highways, is a good example of this type of townsite.

Most Townsites in Alaska are of the Trustee type, where in settlers file an application for townsite survey. The townsite layout is prepared to accommodate all existing improvements within appropriate lots and then the layout is surveyed and marked on the ground. The townsite is then patented to the Townsite Trustee and he then issues deeds to lot occupants. Vacant lots are sold at public auction with receipts going to the village.

Since the inception of the townsite program with the passage of the Act of March 3, 1891 and various other townsite acts, including Presidential and railroad townsites, the Bureau has surveyed a total of 130 townsites in Alaska. Petitions for townsite surveys have continued to be filed, and have resulted in a backlog of 125. In order to overcome this backlog, a stepped up townsite survey program has been adopted. A goal has been set of 15 surveys for 1966 field season, 20 for the 1967 field season, and 25 for each season thereafter until we become current.



George Gustafson, BLM Townsite Trustee, (left) helping Ernest Kignok, an Eskimo at Barrow, fill out application for a lot.

Minerals:

Alaska is undergoing a period of extensive mineral investigation, hopefully precluding a period of mining activity. Both Falconbridge and Moneta Porcupine have had exploration parties in the field in recent years. Kennecott Copper Corporation is developing a high grade copper deposit in the Kobuk River Valley, employing Natives trained by the University of Alaska. Interest continues in the Klukwan iron deposits near Haines. Discovery of beryllium in the Nome district caused filing of many mining claims. Over 500 claims for magnetite were located in seven areas on the Alaska Peninsula. Exploration work on them continued thru the 1965 and 1966 seasons. A State Prospectors' Assistance Program, patterned after the Canadian minerals assistance program, is stimulating interest in both hardrock and placer minerals.

Since use of sand, gravel and rock is basic to a growing economy, consumption of those materials has been increasing annually. Gravel and crushed rock for road construction represents the largest use. Sand and gravel for concrete work are important. Heavy rock is increasing in importance not only for riprap along river banks, but as material for artificial islands used to support drill rigs in Cook Inlet. During the 1966 fiscal year \$47,812.50 worth of mineral material was provided at no cost to various governmental agencies, primarily the Alaska Department of Highways. The State of Alaska receives five percent of the money received from mineral material sales.

Although the State is selecting the most favorable economic lands and removing them from BLM jurisdiction, BLM expects its activities in locatable, leasable, and saleable minerals to continue.

Alaska has a lengthy history of mineral production, starting with the discovery of rich gold placers in the late 1800's.



Oil & Gas:

Oil and gas leasing continues to be the major mineral activity in Alaska. On December 31, 1966 there were 5,092 leases covering 9,264,163 acres. This places Alaska fourth highest in leases and third in acreage in comparison with other BLM offices.

The State of Alaska has received over \$66 million in bonus monies since the first competitive sale in December 1959. Annual payment to the State of 90% of Federal rentals is in excess of \$4½ million each year plus about \$3 million in royalty. From Statehood to June 30, 1966 the State has received \$50,455,600.48 from the Federal government for rentals and royalties.

Natural gas from a Federally managed unit is being supplied to Anchorage for heating purposes and is being used for repressuring the Swanson oil field; a refinery is processing Alaskan crude produced from the Swanson Soldotna field; site work began in August 1966 on behalf of Collier Carbon and Chemical for the state's first petrochemical complex, which includes the world's largest urea plant and the West Coast's largest ammonia plant. The complex will reflect a \$50 million investment and should be in production by 1968; a Methane-Liquefaction plant is expected to be in operation by 1969 according to Marathon Oil and the Pan American Petroleum group, partners in the venture. Natural gas is piped into Barrow from a nearby well for domestic use.

Companies are actively seeking oil on the Alaska Peninsula. Japanese interests recently formed a company with announced plans of exploration in the Bristol Bay area.

There is an outer continental lease sale shaping up for 1968 or 1969 with lands in either the lower Cook Inlet or the Gulf of Alaska to be offered.

While new lease activity has declined, lease assignments are frequent and there has been more concentration on development. Of 371 well completions, 102 have been oil, 41 gas and 2 service gas.

